

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-3072**  
**House, 7524 Marks Avenue**  
**Overlea, Baltimore County**  
**ca. 1904**  
**Private**

The single-family dwelling at 7524 Marks Avenue was constructed circa 1904 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20th century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The property includes a chicken coop, now used as a rental apartment, and a bar, which serves as a garage.

The wood frame dwelling is rectangular in shape with a wrap-around porch and an attached one-story chicken coop and garage. The narrow two-and-a-half-story building measures two bays deep on Marks Avenue and five bays wide, extending northwest to Belair Avenue. The main entry is located on the southwest elevation, which reads as a side wall rather than primary facade. The structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete capped with a square-edged watertable. The first story of the structure is clad with rock-faced concrete block, while the upper stories are covered with asbestos shingles. Open pedimented gables on the longer elevations augment the front gable roof, which is clad with slate tiles. The overhang of the roof is trimmed with an ovolo-molded cornice, a smooth soffitt, and quadrant bead bed molding. This molding returns on the narrow elevations and at the pedimented gables. An interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap is located on the northeast slope of the roof, at the northern end. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its wrap-around porch, molded cornice, semi-circular arched openings, and form. The Colonial Revival style is also interpreted through the use of Tuscan columns, sidelights, transom, and square-edged watertable.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3072

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

### 2. Location

street and number 7524 Marks Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles C. Deaver, Jr. and Marilee Deaver

street and number 7524 Marks Avenue telephone

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21236-4620

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m. 81, p. 349

city, town Towson liber 6470 folio 190

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3072

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The dwelling at 7524 Marks Avenue in Baltimore County was constructed circa 1904. The wood frame dwelling is rectangular in shape with a wrap-around porch and an attached one-story chicken coop and garage. The narrow two-and-a-half-story building measures two bays deep on Marks Avenue and five bays wide, extending northwest to Belair Avenue. The main entry is located on the southwest elevation, which reads as a side wall rather than primary facade. The structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete capped with a square-edged watertable. The first story of the structure is clad with rock-faced concrete block, while the upper stories are covered with asbestos shingles. Open pedimented gables on the longer elevations augment the front gable roof, which is clad with slate tiles. The overhang of the roof is trimmed with an ovolo-molded cornice, a smooth soffitt, and quadrant bead bed molding. This molding returns on the narrow elevations and at the pedimented gables. An interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap is located on the northeast slope of the roof, at the northern end. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its wrap-around porch, molded cornice, semi-circular arched openings, and form. The Colonial Revival style is also interpreted through the use of Tuscan columns, sidelights, transom, and square-edged watertable. The building is one of several freestanding single-family dwellings on Marks Avenue, a dead end street in the rural community of Fullerton.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The southeast elevation fronting Marks Avenue is two bays wide and two-and-a-half-stories in height. A one-story wrap-around porch that turns the south corner of the building to the southwest elevation augments the first story of the building. The wood frame porch is composed of a poured concrete base with Tuscan columns. These wood columns are set on low rock-faced concrete bases with ogee-molded capitals. The columns support the half-hipped roof, which is clad with slate tiles. An enclosed pediment is located at the end of the porch on the southwest elevation, set directly over the primary entry into the dwelling. This pediment has a wood-clad tympanum with square-edged raking. The edge of the porch roof is finished with a recessed frieze, boxed entablature, and ogee-molded cornice. Access to the entry is gained via poured concrete steps edged by a metal rail. The steps are entered from the south side.

The first story of the southeast elevation, clad with rock-faced concrete blocks over the raised foundation of poured concrete, is pierced by two elongated window openings. The openings hold replacement 1/1 double-hung windows of metal set within cast concrete sills and lintels. These replacement windows are shorter and slightly narrower than the openings in which they sit. Consequently, the openings have been partially infilled and parged. The original wood surrounds, finished with a narrow interior bead, are extant. The second story is symmetrically pierced with two standard size window openings. The openings hold replacement 1/1 double-hung windows of metal. The late 20<sup>th</sup> century cladding of the second story has obscured the original sills, lintels, and casings. Thus, the openings are framed with an aluminum casing that is a component of the replacement windows. The gable end of the southeast elevation has a single semi-circular arched window opening. This small opening retains the original 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window with wood sill and beaded surround.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3072

Name House, 7524 Marks Avenue, Baltimore  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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The northeast elevation is largely devoid of openings, rather it clearly presents the materials in which the building is constructed and clad. The raised foundation of poured concrete is pierced by three deeply recessed openings. The rectangular openings hold two-light fixed windows of metal. Constructed of rock-faced concrete block, the first story of the main block has no openings. The ell, however, is pierced on the first story by a single window opening. This opening holds a replacement 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window with a cast concrete sill and lintel. The second story of the main block, which is clad with asbestos shingles, is pierced by one replacement 1/1 double-hung window of metal. Within the open gable of the centrally placed pediment is a small 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window set in a semi-circular arched opening. This opening retains the original wood sill and beaded surround.

The northwest elevation of the main block, measuring two bays deep, has been extended by a shed roof ell set on a poured concrete foundation. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and extends slightly from the structure with a molded cornice and bed molding. Approximately one bay wide, the ell is two stories in height and clad with asbestos shingles. Physical evidence suggests this ell was enclosed on the first story, clad with rock-faced concrete blocks, while the second story was an open porch that has since been enclosed. A one-story addition of wood frame has been constructed on the western end of the two-story ell. The first story of the northwest elevation is pierced on the first story by one 1/1-replacement double-hung window of metal and a single-leaf door. This entry opening holds a wood door with lights and recessed panels. The second story has two 1/1-replacement double-hung windows of metal. Largely obscured from view, the gable end of the main block is pierced by an original 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window set within a semi-circular arched opening. This opening retains the original wood sill and beaded surround.

The southwest elevation, reading as the primary façade, is marked by the wrap-around porch, central entry opening, open pedimented gable, and ell on the northwest elevation. The central entry, accessed via concrete stairs, is slightly recessed within the plane of the wall. This opening is raised above the foundation and square-edged watertable. The foundation is unfenestrated, save the metal bulkhead located just north of the wrap-around porch. The porch terminates to the north of the entry. The entry opening is surrounded by narrow sidelights of leaded glass set over recessed panels. It is finished with a leaded transom. The door, which appears to be a replacement, has multiple lights set over vertical panels. It is sheltered by a glass-and-paneled storm door. Flanking the entry, the original main block of the house is pierced by two sets of elongated window openings. The openings hold replacement 1/1 double-hung windows of metal set within cast concrete sills and lintels. These replacement windows are shorter and slightly narrower than the openings in which they sit. Consequently, the openings have been partially infilled and parged. The original wood surrounds, finished with a narrow interior bead, are extant. The single window opening in the ell is similarly finished with a replacement 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window with a cast concrete sill.

Five standard sized window openings, four in the main block and one in the ell, pierce the second story of the southwest elevation. These openings hold 1/1-replacement double-hung, metal sash windows with metal

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3072

Name House, 7524 Marks Avenue, Baltimore  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 3

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surrounds. An original 1/1 double-hung, wood sash window set within a semi-circular arched opening pierces the gable end. This opening retains the original wood sill and beaded surround.

The one-story attached apartment structure on the north corner of the building was originally used as a chicken coop. Constructed of wood frame, this structure is covered by a shed roof clad with asphalt shingles. The overhanging eaves of the roof shelter the asbestos shingle cladding of the building. It is pierced on the southeast side by a single entry opening holding a multi-light wood door. The opening is set under a shed roof pediment, clad with corrugated metal sheets. A wood frame porch, dating from the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century sits at the front of the entry. The northeast elevation of the two bay deep structure is partially obscured by ivy. There is a single opening holding a 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window with narrow surrounds. A similar opening pierced the northwest elevation of the structure. The northeast elevation of the former chicken coop is attached to the one-story garage, which originally was used as a barn. These two joined structures are separated by a brick party wall. The gabled garage is constructed of wood frame and extensively covered with ivy.

The building, which is currently used as rental property, was not open for an interior survey.

### Rock-faced Concrete Blocks

Patented in 1900, rock-faced concrete block instantly became one of the leading building materials in the United States. The concrete blocks were a cheap, quick, and easy alternative to more traditional materials, with a block costing between thirteen and twenty cents to make in 1910. Advertisers also pointed out that it was fireproof, required no paint, and needed little care. Notwithstanding all these advantages, one of the most important reasons for the popularity of concrete block was its ornamental possibilities. Any number of wreaths, scrolls, or cobblestone faces could be produced in concrete block.<sup>1</sup> A combination of changes in both taste and technology in the 1930s led the industry to shift production to the more utilitarian and less decorative plainface block.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. (Knoxville, TN: the University of Tennessee, 1999), p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Simpson, p. 27.



## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3072

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** circa 1904-1950

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** circa 1904

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The single-family dwelling at 7524 Marks Avenue was constructed circa 1904 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The property includes a chicken coop, now used as a rental apartment, and a bar, which serves as a garage.

### History of Fullerton

The history of the property in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century community of Fullerton dates back to the extension of Belair Road, which was initially laid in a northeasterly direction to the community of Bel Air from the City of Baltimore. As early as 1850, Belair Road was heavily developed and populated in the area immediately surrounding the city. Roughly ten miles away from the city, however, Belair Road was still not heavily populated. This area, where the road traversed White Marsh Run, was dotted by small farms, with only a very few buildings set close to the road. Primarily members of the Fitch and Fowler families inhabited this land in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As the city of Baltimore expanded beyond its existing limits, this land became one of its primary suburbs.<sup>3</sup>

By the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Belair Road/White Marsh Run area was still without a name, and the nearest post office was located in the neighboring community of Parkville. Parkville, home to the Lavender Hill Post Office, was situated a short distance to the northwest along the Harford Turnpike. Nonetheless, the area was beginning to develop with oddly shaped lots and irregular street patterns.<sup>4</sup> The 1877 county map indicates the property destined to become Fullerton was owned and/or occupied by A. Deemer. As indicated by

<sup>3</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.

<sup>4</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3072

Name House, 7524 Marks Avenue, Baltimore  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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the map, the land had not yet been subdivided into smaller residential lots and was improved with only one residential building that was located at the southeast corner of Belair Road and Fullerton Avenue.

Between 1877 and 1915, Deemer's land was platted to include roughly twenty small residential lots. It was at this time that Marks Avenue was outlined to run parallel to Belair Road and then dead-end roughly halfway through the development known as Fullerton. Half of the residential lots created from Deemer's property fronted Belair Road, with the remaining lots on Marks Avenue. Deemer's dwelling at the corner of the property was retained during the subdivision and development of Fullerton. Surrounding neighborhoods that developed during this period include Overton, South Overlea, Overlea Park, and the Addition to Overlea.<sup>5</sup>

The Fullerton development has changed significantly since its original platting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nine of the Fullerton lots facing northwest on Belair Road were improved with residential structures by 1915. However, only one building from this period is extant. Located at 7531 Belair Road, this wood frame dwelling was substantially altered in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by the construction of a commercial storefront. This alteration is indicative of the transition of this part of Belair Road from a residential community to a mixed-use area bisected by a major transportation corridor. The contemporary residential buildings fronting Belair Road have been demolished in order to construct commercial properties and parking lots.

In contrast, the lots fronting Marks Avenue have remained largely residential in character. Between five and ten dwellings on the southeast half of the Fullerton development date to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These freestanding dwellings are interspersed by lots that were not developed until the 1940s and 1950s. To the east of Fullerton, across Marks Avenue, the land is sparsely developed with few residential building. It was used primarily for agricultural purposes, and has since been developed as a recreational park for the community.

With the growth of the adjacent community of Overlea to the south, the historic neighborhood of Fullerton has been absorbed and has largely lost its individual context. Overlea has continued to develop residentially and commercially. As the City of Baltimore increased in size through annexation of its suburbs, Overlea's distance from the city diminished. Thus, Overlea is now less than one mile from the city limits. This 20<sup>th</sup> century development has resulted in a considerable loss of area's late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and businesses. Within the last twenty years, the properties just north of those on Marks Avenue were demolished for the construction of a gas station/convenience store at the intersection Belair Road and Henry Avenue. The turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century reveals continued development of this Baltimore suburb. A smaller community that has taken the name Fullerton has since developed along Belair Road, to the north of the Baltimore Beltway.

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<sup>5</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3072

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.  
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.  
*Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.  
Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971).  
Sidney J. C. *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Less than one Acre  
Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 7524 Marks Avenue in historic Fullerton (now Overlea) is located on Parcel 349, Lot 16 as denoted on Map 81, Grid 16. The property is bounded by Marks Avenue to the south and Belair Avenue to the north. The dwelling has been associated with this property since its construction circa 1904.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. L. McDonald and L. V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.	date	August 30, 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



STATES  
OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERS

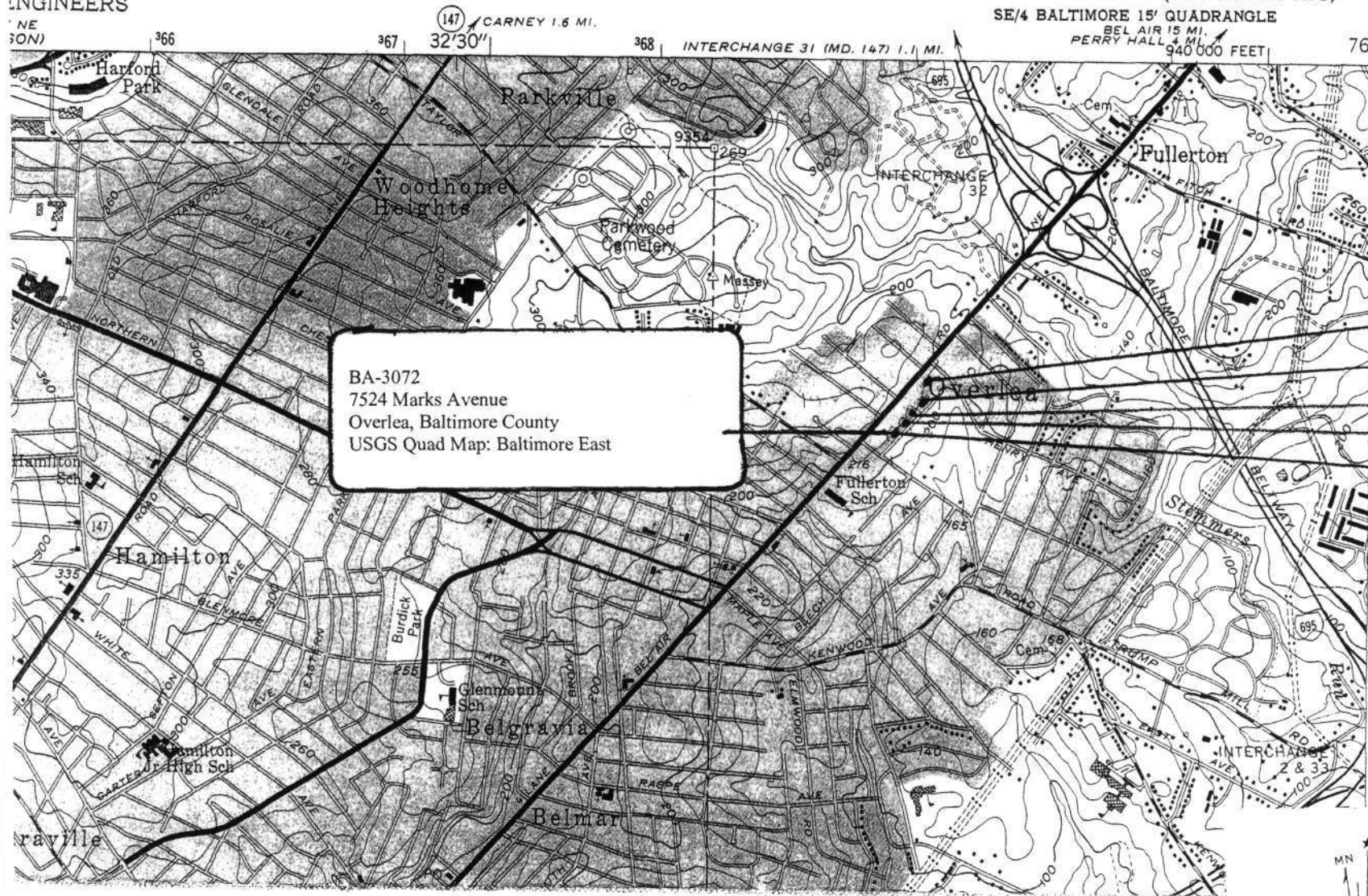
# BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

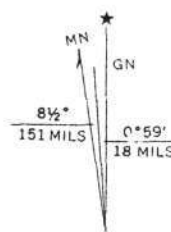
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5762 IV NW  
(WHITE MARSH)



- 7531 BELAIR ROAD
- 7534 MARKS ROAD
- 7532 MARKS ROAD
- 7530 MARKS ROAD
- 7524 MARKS ROAD



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

STATES  
OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERS

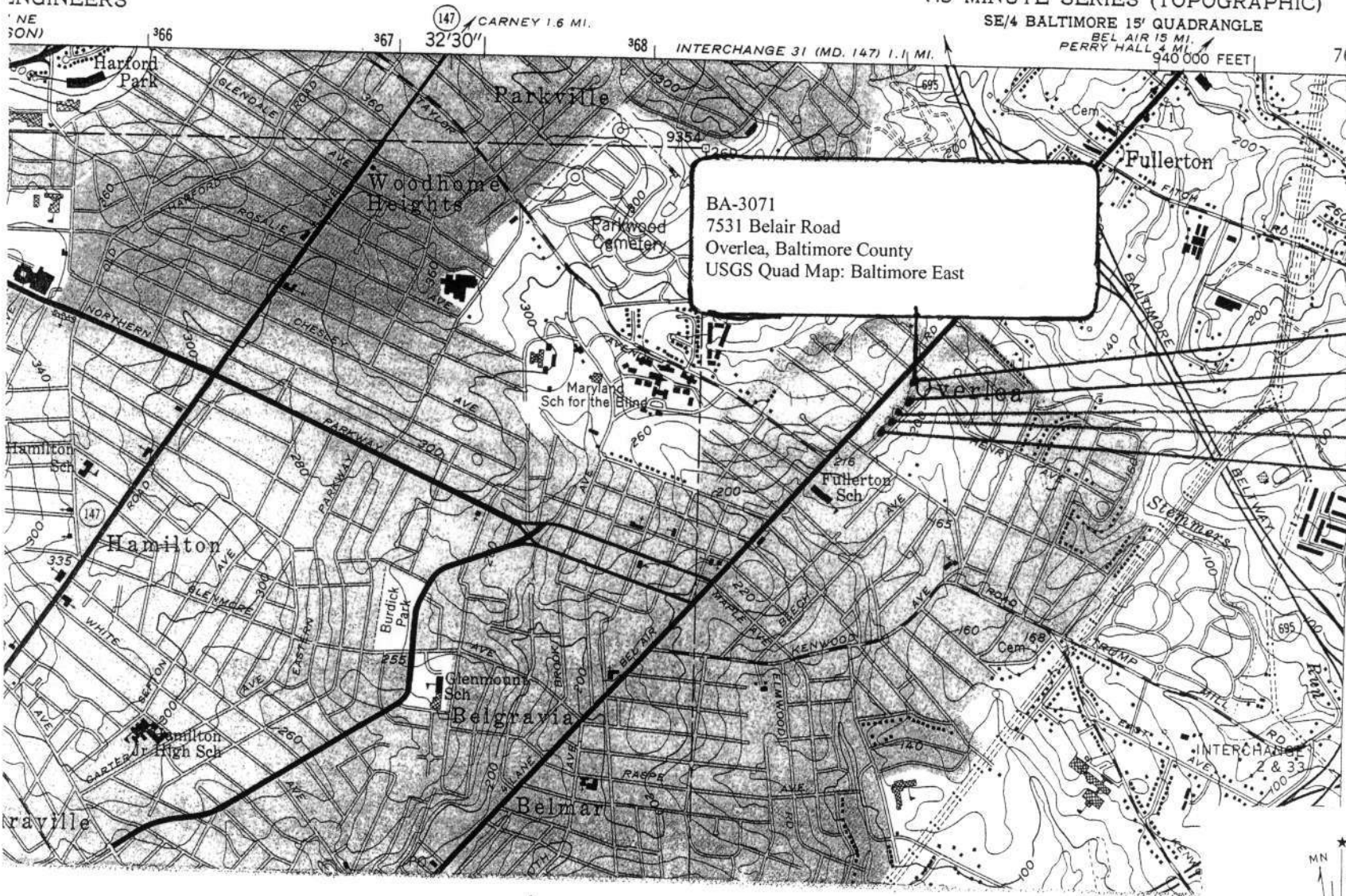
# BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

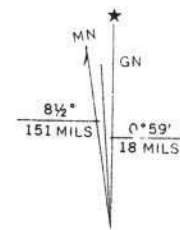
5762 IV NW  
(WHITE MARSH)



76°30'  
39°22'30"

4359  
560 000  
FEET

7531 BELAIR ROAD  
7534 MARKS ROAD  
7532 MARKS ROAD  
7530 MARKS ROAD  
7524 MARKS ROAD



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-3072

7524 MARKS AVENUE, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

PRIMARY FACADE, LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 5





BA-3072

7524 MARKS AVENUE, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

2 OF 5



BA-3072

7524 MARKS AVENUE, OVERLEA  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 5



BA-3072

7524 MARKS AVENUE, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

CHICKEN COOP/BARN, LOOKING WEST

5 OF 5